



National Transportation Safety Board

NTSB Mission and Investigation Process: The Journey from Accident Launch to Probable Cause

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Board Member

CAPA Safety Meeting
May 7, 2013

NTSB Mission



NTSB



- 1) determining the probable cause
of transportation accidents**
- 2) making recommendations to
prevent their recurrence**



NTSB



All Modes



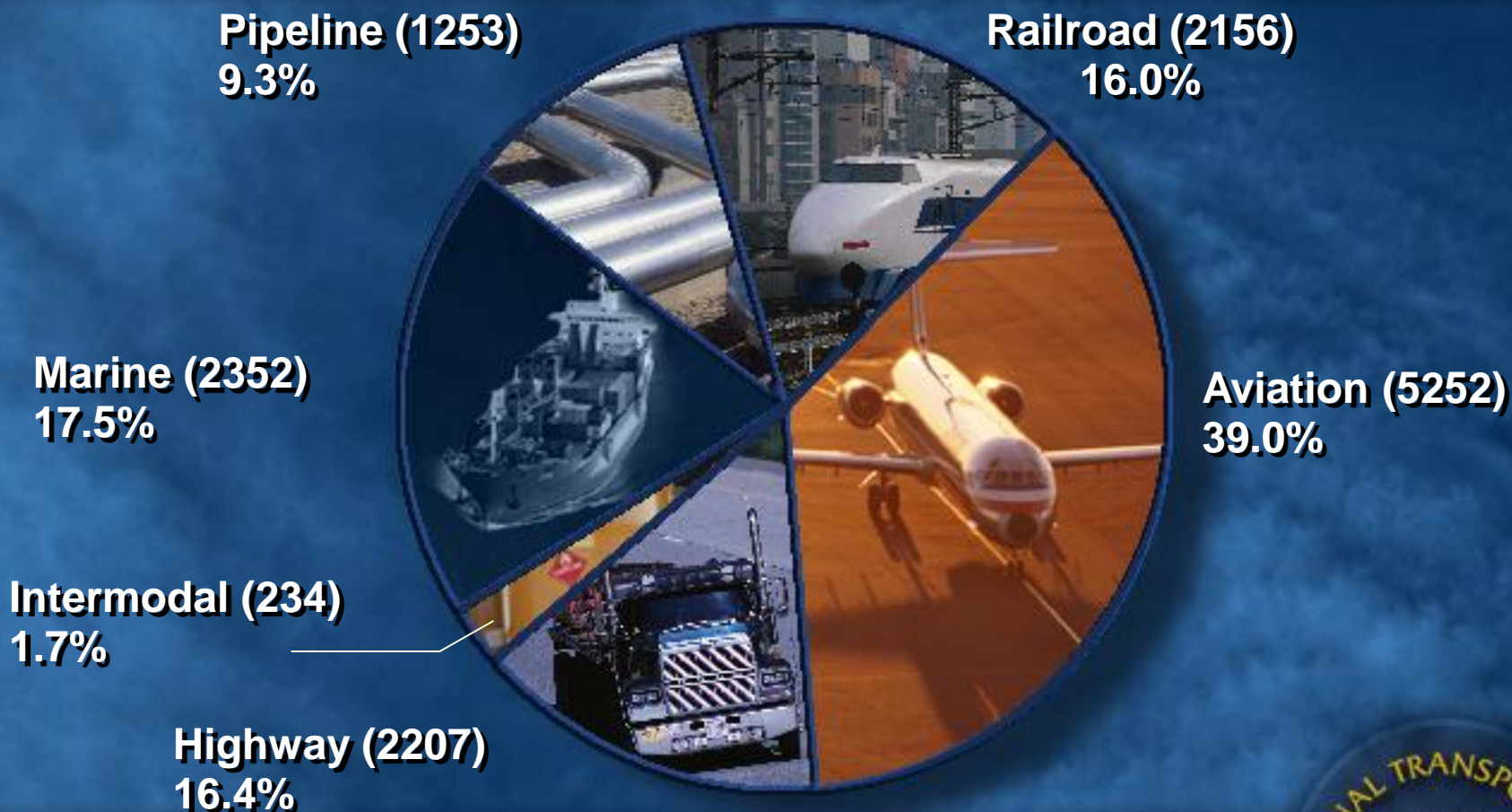
NTSB

Independent Federal Agency: Created in 1967

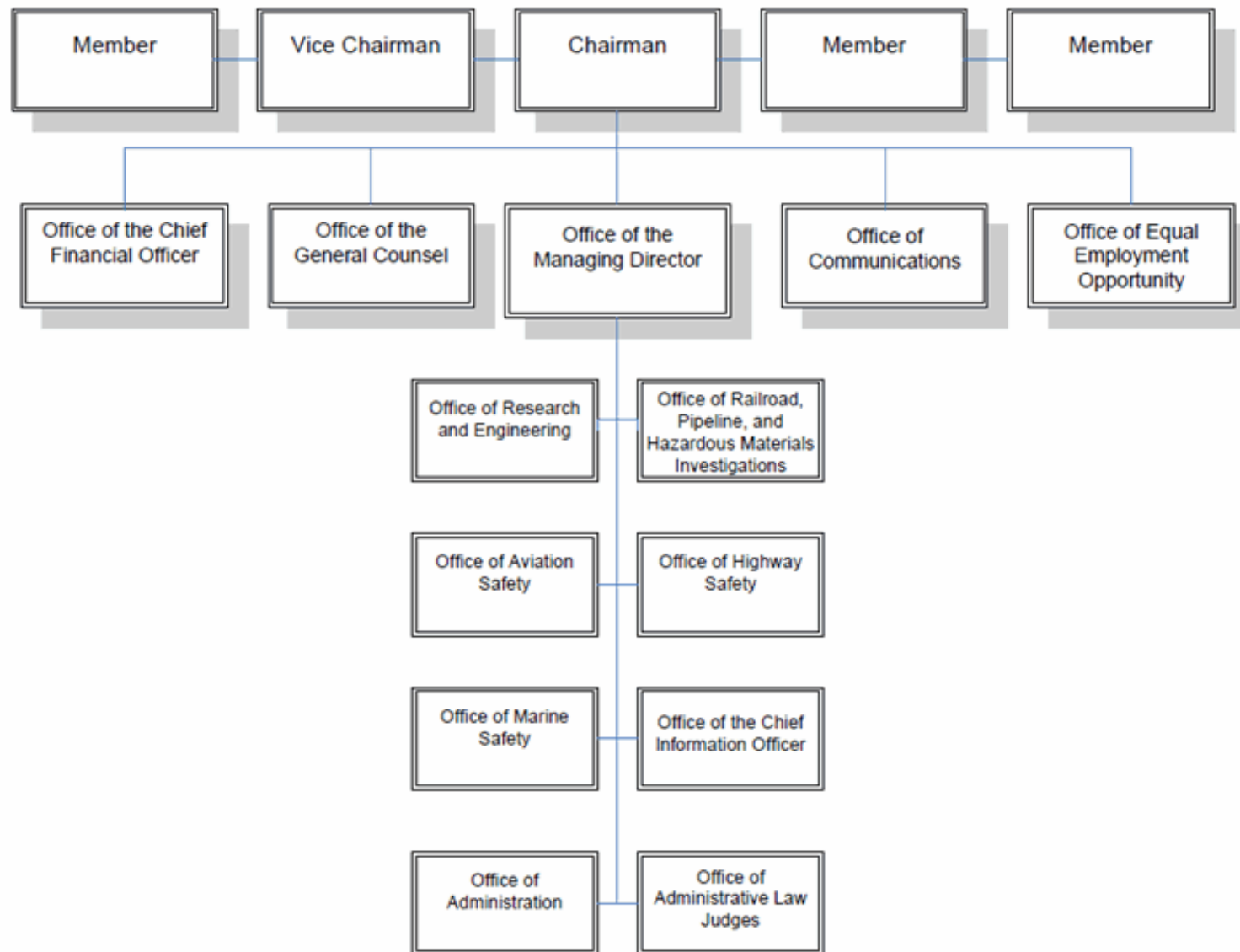
- ~ 132,000 accident investigations
- 13,500+ safety recommendations
- ~ 2,500 organizations/recipients
- 82% acceptance rate



13,454 Safety Recommendations issued since 1967



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD



NTSB: The Board

- Five Members:
 - President nominates
 - Senate confirms



Mark Rosekind
Member



Chris Hart
Vice Chairman



Debbie Hersman
Chairman



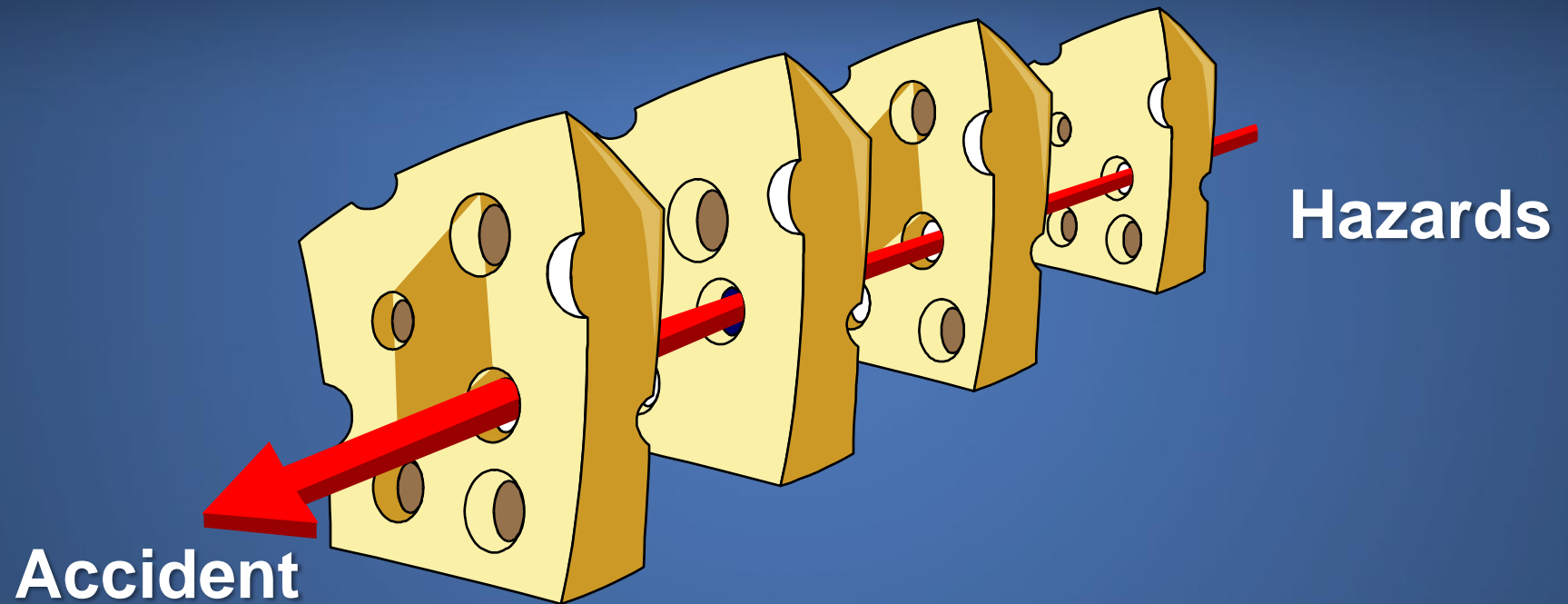
Robert Sumwalt
Member



Earl Weener
Member



“Swiss Cheese” Model (Reason)

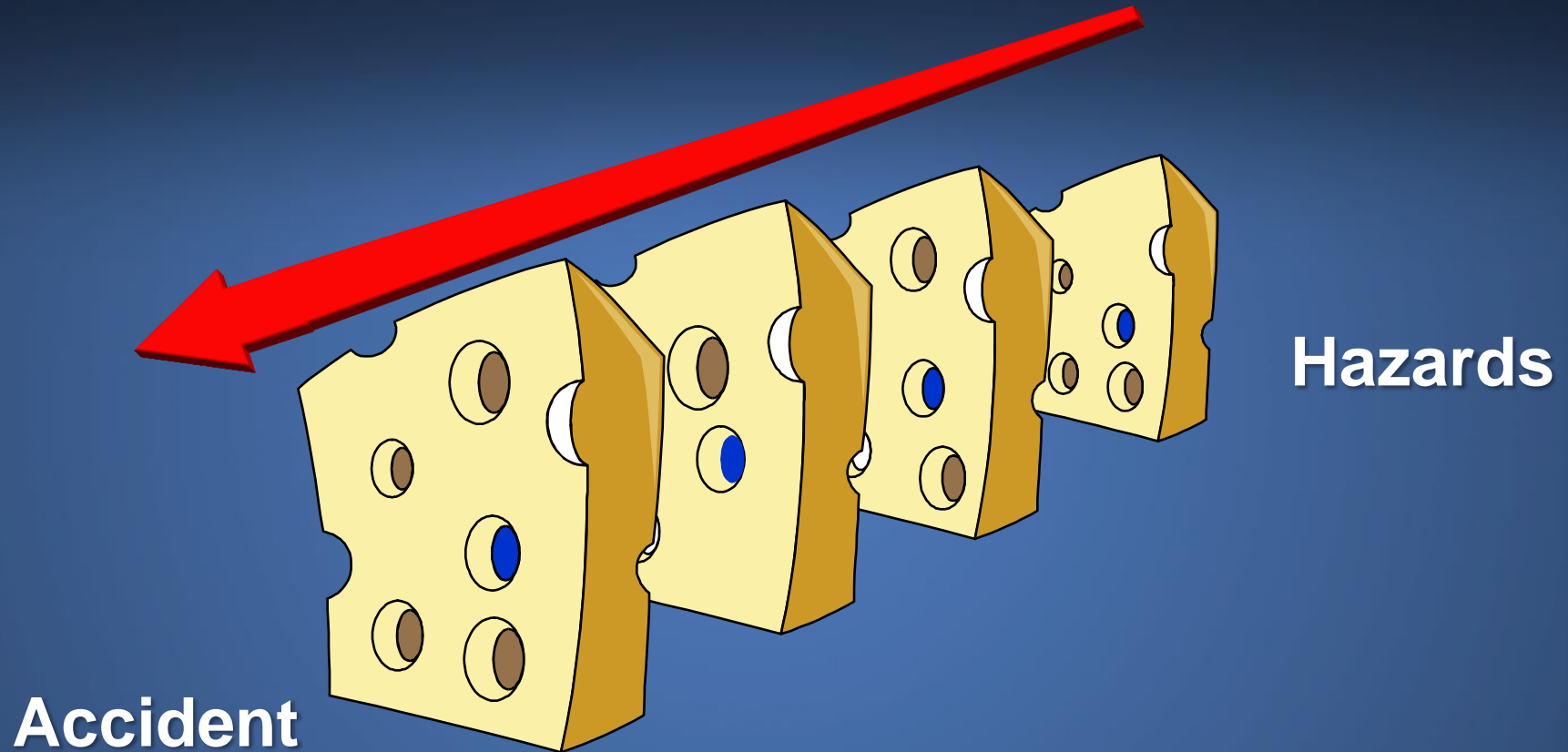


Successive layers of defenses, barriers, and safeguards



NTSB

The Challenge (Haueter)



Successive layers of defenses, barriers, and safeguards



NTSB

Honorable John K. Lauber:

No Accident \neq
Safe Operation



NTSB

NTSB Characterized as:

‘moral compass and industry conscience’

NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman



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NTSB Investigation Process



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NTSB Go Team: 24/7/365

- Individual investigator
- Regional/limited team
- Major launch/Board Member



Key On-scene Events



Organizational Meeting

- Designate parties and party coordinators
- Establish and organize groups

Progress Meetings

- Summarize findings
- Info for briefings

Family Briefings

Press Briefings



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NTSB Party System

- NTSB selects parties
(No insurers, claimants, lawyers)
- Bound by rules of engagement
(Responsive to NTSB direction)
- Verify factual reports written by group chairmen

*“...persons, government agencies, companies, and associations whose employees, functions, activities, or products were involved in the accident and who can provide **suitable qualified technical personnel** to actively assist...”*

Party Member Examples

- FAA (always)
- Equipment manufacturer
- Engine manufacturer
- Airline Pilots Association
- Air Traffic Controllers Union



NTSB

Reno, NV Air Race (9/16/11)



11 fatalities
74 injuries



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June 24, 2012
Goodwell,
Oklahoma



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NTSB Investigative Process



On-scene Investigation

Organizational Meeting
Groups and Parties
Progress meetings
Media Briefings
Press Releases

A screenshot of the NTSB Form 612 (Preliminary Report) for Continental Airlines Flight 3407. The form includes fields for aircraft information, flight details, and a narrative section. The narrative describes the crash of the aircraft on Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BNF) on February 12, 2009, at 22:16:30. The aircraft was a Bombardier CRJ-900, registration N402ND, and was operating as a scheduled passenger flight from New York City to Buffalo, New York. The report mentions a loss of control during the approach and a subsequent crash into a residential area.

Preliminary Report

Factual information



Public Hearing

Fact finding
Depositions
Witnesses
Docket



Board Meeting

Docket
Findings
Conclusions
Probable Cause
Safety Recommendations



Final Report

Government in the Sunshine Act



NTSB

Party Participation

- Written party agreement: roles and responsibilities
- Support collection of factual information
- Questions, concerns, issues
- Party submission
- Board Member meetings
- Accident Board Meeting





**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

Enhance transportation safety

NTSB: Independence and Transparency

www.nts.gov



National Transportation Safety Board